

新冠肺炎下的 迦 匐 期

四旬期是悔改重歸上 主的時期,是要我們多行善 功的時期,是儲備屬神的力 量,以對抗誘惑和私慾偏情 的時期。

今年的四旬期像去年 一樣,我們在新冠肺炎的威 脅下進入和將會度過的一個 禮儀時期。新冠肺炎大流行 已過了一年了。現在回想起 來,這大流行的時期使我們 減損了很多東西,彷彿是一 個漫長的四旬期,可惜我們 沒有以四旬期的精神來生活 這段日子。



施捨(愛德善功)幫助我 們跳出自我,不要留戀自 己,好讓我們的心充滿愛 主愛人的愛,並多關注我 們近人的需要。愛德善功 是救主耶穌極其推薦的善 功,祂稱之為第二條最重 要的誡命,也是將來判別 我們能否進入永恆天國的 惟一標準(瑪25:31-46)。在 疫症大流行的時期,我們 有較多的時間留在家中, 我們有否更多關注家人的 需要而作出服務?同時, 因疫情的關係,我們也會

發現多些近人的需要,讓我們不要吝惜而施以援手。

四旬期的精神是什麼呢?

它首先是要我們悔改和重歸上主。它是救主耶穌 在祂的福音中所要求的。祂在第一篇公開的宣講就說: 「你們悔改,信從福音吧!」(谷1:15b)悔改是要作180 度的轉向,遠離邪惡、驕傲、自私和罪惡的邪道,歸向 救主耶穌所宣告的良善和聖寵、愛和聖德的福音道路。 四旬期是慕道者為他們的入門聖事作近準備的時期,他 們要為自己的生命作出一個莊嚴的抉擇,跟隨基督, 棄絕罪惡,死於自我,活於天主。讓我們領洗經年的教 友,也從中得到啟發,把握四旬期的時機重歸上主。聖 經上很多記載,當天主子民遭遇大災難的時候,先知們 首先宣告的是悔改和重歸上主,好能得到上主的憐憫和 開恩。在這新冠肺炎疫症大流行的時期,讓我們謙誠地 悔改和重歸上主。

四旬期的精神是多行善功。聖經所推薦的善功有施 捨(愛德善功)、祈禱和禁食(克己)。

四旬期是多行祈禱的時期。現在我們有很是方便的 交友平台,每天我們可能用了不少時間與友人和在群組 裡分享訊息,報導搜集得來的資訊和瀏覽種種訊息。但 可能因為這樣,我們向天主祈禱的時間減少了。救主耶 穌在福音中多次叫我們勤行祈禱及恆心祈禱。在疫症期 間,我們會有較多的個人時間,讓我們懷著愛和信賴, 向聖父、聖子和聖神祈禱; 為疫情的緩和及終止祈禱; 以及偕同家人或個人誦念玫瑰經。

禁食(克己)應是四旬期可見的善功。我們要節制食 慾,不要追求我們最喜歡吃的食物。克制感官,減少娛 樂,不去觀看有違信仰精神的各類媒體節目。遠避批 評、抱怨、搬弄是非和惡意的言語。在疫症期間,容易 躭於逸樂,使我們疏忽我們當盡的本份。如果我們奉行 這些克己,我們將有更大的空間和時間來作愛德服務和 祈禱,並藉此獲得天主的祝福,以及帶來內心的平安和 靈魂的潔淨。

第607期



傳真 8 25480661

脚 8 http://www.anthonychurch.org E-mail & editorial@anthonychurch.org



## 二零二一年二月份牧民議會 議決

- 1. 跟進成立核心小組專注發展三個目標群組,並按期擬定計劃:(a)新教友與 慕道班同學;(b)青少年;(c)主日學學生家長。
- 2. 傳信、禮儀、互愛委員會繼續加強與下屬善會的聯繫。推廣培育組未來的 活動,積極參與,收集意見,促進互助合作。
- 3. 鼓勵教友熱心參與平日和主日明供聖體,並領受聖體的靈性滋養。
- 4. 持續按時節策劃愛心服務,關顧有需要的人,並鼓勵堂區教友參與和提供贊助。新春傳心意 的愛德活動分享刊於第4頁。
- 5. 計劃將電腦室改裝為休閑聚會室。

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## 二零二一年三月份禮儀生活 按教區指引:暫停公開彌撒【直至另行通告】

1. 依循教區的防疫新牧民措施,堂區作出以下安排:

● 聖堂開放:每天:7:00am — 8:00pm;周五拜苦路:8:00pm — 9:00pm

【教友靜默祈禱、朝拜聖體、履行善工】

●明供聖體: 周一至六:7:30am — 9:00am 【註:開始及結束前送聖體】

周四:7:00pm — 8:00pm 【特別意向:疫症早日平息】

● 告解安排: (a) 周一、三、五:8:00am — 8:30am

(b) 主日: 8:00am — 8:30am; 9:30am — 10:00am; 11:00am — 11:30am

(c) 教友可個別接觸神父辦「修和聖事」

2. 主日明供聖體: (a) 7:00am — 8:00am; (b) 8:30am — 9:30am; (c) 10:00am — 11:00am; (d) 11:30am — 12:30pm (英文)

【註:開始前15分鐘送聖體】

- 3. 教友可採用下列方式替代參與主日彌撒的本份:
  - a. 觀看任何網上直播或重温的主日彌撒(如教區網站 www.catholic.org.hk 及 視聽中心網站 http://hkdavc.com),神領聖體;或
  - b. 反省主日彌撒經文、閱讀聖經或誦念玫瑰經。
- 4. 教友可善用網上服務,例如網上平日彌撒、信仰培育資訊及其他神業,如晨禱、玫瑰經、三鐘 經等(參見以上網站)。



### 鳴謝捐贈《羊牧之聲》

願聖母進教之佑及聖安多尼酬謝你們, 賜你們身心健康,家庭和睦,主寵日隆。

葉煥屏	\$1000	曾潔玲	\$100
聖安多尼之友會	\$300	鄭雅蓮	\$100
潘宅	\$200	劉耀麟	\$200
雷杏兒	\$100	太極福傳會	\$500
精叻馬	\$200	魯太	\$500
家庭玫瑰組	\$300		



勤讀聖言



四旬期

LENT

Read God's Word



恆常祈禱



四旬期

LENT

Pray Always



克己犧牲



四旬期

LENT

Deny Yourself



樂捐行善



四旬期



Perform Charity



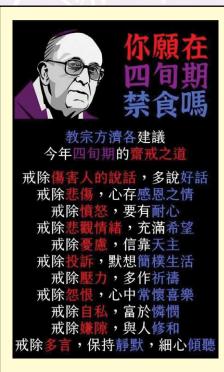
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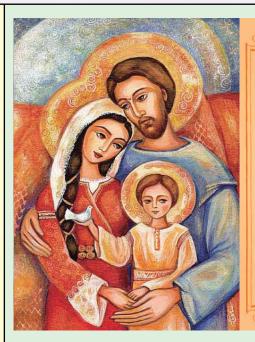


四旬期

LENT

Repent & Renew





「大聖若瑟年」禱詞

8/12/2020 - 8/12/2021

萬福,贖世主的守護者, 童貞聖母瑪利亞的淨配。 天主把祂的獨生子託付予你; 你的淨配瑪利亞信賴你, 因你的合作,基督降生成人。

大聖若瑟,請向我們顯示 你也是我們的父親,

並在人生的旅途上引領我們。請為我們祈獲恩寵,慈悲和勇氣,並保護我們免於一切凶惡。亞孟。

教宗方濟各

聖安多尼堂 St. Anthony's Church

教友可在堂區詢恩處取用禱文咭

### 支持「天主教四旬期運動」 Support Catholic Lenten Campaign

愛德捐獻 Love Offerings





## 支持「一人一利是」行動

**Support Charity Lai See Campaign** 



奉獻 Donation



眾多的中國傳統節日,農曆新年是華人最重要的一個節日。忙碌了一整年後,大家很珍惜想息的日子,讓親友共聚,互相問候,展示關懷之情。堂區亦藉著迎接新春佳節,特意安排在2月7日(年廿六),為社區附近的75個家庭預備了豐富的晚餐,以及賀年食品,包括盆菜、生果、角仔、煎堆、糕點等等。





這次新春傳心意行動,堂區上下一心,出心、出錢、出力。 感謝各兄弟姊妹的慷慨贊助和熱誠服務。大家可從活動照片中感 受到天主的慈愛和福樂,就在我們中間。

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除了食物分享外,福傳粵曲組更為街坊獻上了多 首傳達主愛的悦耳歌曲。我們亦派送堂區印製的賀年 祝福咭,及教友總會製作的揮春和利是封。當日到來 的街坊,個個都笑容滿面,喜氣洋洋。











湯漢樞機四旬期牧函

## LENT: 更新與轉化

A SEASON OF RENEWAL



今年四旬期,為了效法耶穌在曠野40天嚴齋祈禱,我 們懷著革新和皈依精神,準備身心靈善度復活節。

今年的四旬期,正值農曆辛丑牛年。牛,象徵力量和 勤奮。舊約的若瑟為埃及法郎解夢,夢中七隻瘦牛吃掉七隻 肥牛,意指荒年是天主賜予的預兆,國家需智慧賢士更新管理,積穀防饑,未雨綢繆。(創41)社會發展一日千里,教會 理當與時俱進,團結一致,力圖更新,努力成為一個信仰成 熟、服務他人的教會。

本教區今年訂立了「堂區更新」為未來三年(2021年2月 1日至2024年1月31日)的牧民方向(見第7頁的禱文),共同致 力更新和深化信仰;我亦於最近的《將臨期牧函》宣布這項 計劃。堂區是「眾家之家」,是聚合信友舉行主日感恩慶典 的地方,既傳授天主子民禮儀生活的一般表達,也在這慶典 中聚集他們,教導他們基督救世的道理,更在慈善的友愛事 業中實踐上主的慈愛。(《天主教教理》2179號)

我鼓勵各堂區和教會團體為「堂區更新」回顧過去,把握現在,迎向未來。「更新」要求我們在信仰上的皈依和深化,厄瑪烏二徒被基督轉化的信仰歷程(路24:13-35)正好給予我們啟發,使更新在今天的教會和社會實況中體現。我們也宜步武初期教會的三點特質,即福音訓導、共融及服務(宗2:42-47):

- (1) 為了成為主的門徒,有效地把基督傳遞給別人,我們的生命必須被基督所轉化,不斷改進自己的靈修生活,不斷皈依。
- (2) 向內轉化和向外福傳不能單靠個人的努力,還應謙誠地 倚靠天主的扶助,因此,我們應加緊祈禱,每天善用靜

默反思的時刻,閱讀天主 聖言,深化信仰。

(3) 我們應透過參與感恩聖 祭,與教內弟兄姊妹團結 一起,俾能透過互相支持 和鼓勵,眾志成城,服務 弱小者和有需要的人。

普世教會對家庭的牧民關 懷也非常重視,教宗方濟各在 等、共融及服务 時刻,提醒我們以克己體驗 希望安放在天父的眷愛中; (路4:1),祂同樣也啟迪我們 活生命。仰賴天上慈母瑪利 家助佑我們積極面對困難, 們的喜樂與平安!天主保佑

最近聖家節宣佈,由今年3月19日聖若瑟瞻禮起,至2022年6月止,展開為期一年多的「家庭年」,強調家庭的根基需要不斷增進愛的關係,家人應當一同祈禱,互相關愛,彼此寬恕,溫柔相待,並承行天主的旨意。我誠懇呼顧信友重溫教宗在2016年頒布的《愛的喜樂:論家庭之愛》宗座勸諭。

聖家是家庭的模範,聖家也如一般家庭,曾面對生活的各種挑戰。聖若瑟除了撫養耶穌和聖母外,還曾帶著他們星夜逃亡埃及(參路1,2)。在四部福音中,找不到若瑟說過一句話,他可說是「少說多做」的聖人,確是關愛弱小的表率,也被尊崇為教會主保和勞工主保。若瑟持守對天主的信德,克盡家庭守護者之職,以滿全天主的救世大業,值得我們學習。

目前,香港面對著社會各種的挑戰和信心危機,加上嚴峻的新冠肺炎疫情。在這境況下,不少市民就業不足和面對失業,令家庭感到焦慮徬徨。另一方面,喜見醫護等抗疫人員的無私奉獻;也有教友在精神和物資上支援弱小和有需要的家庭,包括利用網絡和電子媒介,彼此關懷。當我們遇到困難時,請將目光轉向基督,期待光明和自由,也是更新對祂信賴的時候。

各位主內的兄弟姊妹:四旬期是聆聽和回應天主聖言的時刻,提醒我們以克己體驗祂無條件的慈恩。讓我們學習把希望安放在天父的眷愛中;正如聖神引領基督進入荒野祈禱(路4:1),祂同樣也啟迪我們,賜我們平安,導引我們邁向復活生命。仰賴天上慈母瑪利亞及聖若瑟的轉禱和芳表,求聖家助佑我們積極面對困難,迎接復活的基督,欣享祂賜給我們的喜樂與平安!天主保佑!





## 厄瑪奴耳

「看!我同你們天天在一起, 直到今世的終結。」

瑪 28:20

天主教香港教區 Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong 覺醒・認同・內化・見證

「若瑟從睡夢中醒來, 就照上主的天使所囑咐的辦了。」 (瑪1:24)

2021/3/13 (星期六)

講者:夏志誠輔理主教



4月

教友分享短片

6月

「山中聖訓」講座 真福八端Challenge 主講:蔡俊源神父 「福音默觀」祈禱短片

7月

「傳信者的品格」講座 主講:關俊棠神父

8月

「作時代的宣講者」講座 「淺談宣講技巧」講座 主講: 左旭華神父

9月

藝術祈禱工作坊

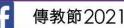
主題:厄瑪奴耳 — 生命中的祝福「禪繞畫」

「和諧粉彩」一緑茵小聖堂

10月

10月17日(主日) 傳教節慶典

傳教節電郵地址 mission@catholic.org.hk





# 三月神修話語

#### 生活反省

這是天主在西乃山頒佈十誡時所説的第一條誡命。 出谷紀中,天主降下十個災難,將以色列人從埃及的奴役中拯救出來。祂顯示了自己的大能,祂就是那位掌管 天地和生命的神。到了曠野,以民遇到困難時,卻懷疑 天主,埋怨梅瑟,懷緬過去為奴的生活。於是,天主從

天降下瑪納以供他們每日所需,把苦水變甜,命梅瑟 石出水為以民解渴。結果呢?當天主在西乃山向梅瑟頒佈十誡時,以民在山下朝拜金牛,違反了誡命。



以民的表現看來愚蠢,對天主的無信,的確令人失望。如果把我們的「生命之旅」看成以民的「曠野之路」,那 麼我們對自己又如何評價呢?



當生活匱乏時,我們會埋怨天主?還是依靠祂呢?當面對痛苦時,我們會質疑祂的存在?還是細數祂的恩典呢?當前路茫茫時,我們會信 仰望天主?還是到處求神問卜呢?每天營營役役,有多少事情是為祂而做的?有多少時間會花在祈禱或讀經上呢?在人生的優次上,我們把這位「神」放在第幾位呢?

#### 祈禱

全能仁慈的天父,祢創造萬有,掌管生命,賜給我們救恩,但我們只聚焦於地上的榮耀、物質和安穩,往往沒有把祢放在首位。求祢寬恕我們的無信、 愚蠢和傲慢,更求祢恩賜我們信、望、愛三德,好好的走完這條曠野之路,抵 達天國福地。亞孟。



## 四旬期實踐基督徒懺悔補贖

宗座聖赦院院長皮亞琴扎(Mauro Piacenza) 樞機2月18日發表公開信,解釋教會邀請信友們在四旬期懺悔補贖的深刻意義。他表示,懺

悔補贖的時期,也是參與基督最終戰勝邪惡的時期。在受新 冠疫情大流行考驗的今天,唯有基督能帶給人類喜樂和救 恩。

四旬期始於懺悔補贖的撒聖灰禮儀。皮亞琴扎樞機寫道,基督徒的懺悔補贖是天主聖神所賜予的德行,讓人能把自己的生命託付於上主,與祂同受苦難,因而參與到基督的新生命中,把自己交付於十字架。四十天這個「神聖的數字」代表著真正皈依和救恩的時期。

就具體的懺悔補贖神業,皮亞琴扎樞機列舉教會的禮儀

#### 與靈修傳統:

- 1. 作一個能正確認識自己的良心省察;
- 2. 通過祈禱、守齋和施捨而悔改,與天主、自己和弟 兄姊妹修和;
- 3. 通過四旬期克己,在日常生活中紀念基督的臨在;
- 4. 通過拜苦路紀念救主的苦難聖死;
- 5. 誦唸懺悔補贖聖詠;
- 6. 誦唸聖人列品祈禱文;
- 7. 為播種和收穫時節而舉行的懺悔補贖遊行,這傳統 從未被廢除,而是變得更迫切了;
- 8. 參與彌撒和朝拜聖體時,深情地默想基督的苦難與復活奧蹟;
- 9. 向榮福童貞瑪利亞祈禱。

樞機祈願聖母幫助基督徒的懺悔補贖臻於成熟, 並使眾人能夠擁抱且能看到疫情的緊急時刻,也是讓 人獲得救恩的機會,重獲心靈的喜樂與自由。



天父,上智的建築師,我們衷心感謝祢,透過聖子基督的死而復活,救贖人類,建立教會,聚萬民為一家。

身為基督徒,我們深感榮幸。我們蒙召成為教會的活石,並聯同堂區團體,參與福傳事工,推動基督的救世大業。

慈悲的天父,作為袮的子女,我們往往未以善言善行向人彰顯袮的美善,而我們的堂區,亦常未樹立仁愛之家的善表;對這些缺失,我們謙卑地求袮寬恕。

天父,求祢助佑我們堂區的信友,深化信仰,並如基督的肢體,互相補足,彼此包容,團結共融。願聖神照引我們明辨時代徵兆,並以愛火激勵我們,使我們樂於投入社區各層面,見證福音,以引領他人加入教會大家庭,共享天國永福。因主耶穌基督之名,求祢俯聽我們的祈禱。亞孟。

准印:天主教香港教區宗座署理 湯漢樞機

日期:2021年1月11日

### 2. 以希望為我們繼續旅程的「活水」

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耶穌曾向井邊的撒瑪黎雅婦人要水喝,但當耶穌說祂可以賜給她「活水」(若4:10)時,那位撒瑪黎雅婦人不明白祂的意思。她很自然地認為祂指的是實際上的水,但耶穌說的是聖神,祂要藉著逾越奧蹟豐富地賜予這活水,賜給不會令大家失望的希望。其實耶穌告訴門徒祂要受難、死亡時,已經提到這個希望,因為祂說,「第三天他要復活」(瑪20:19)。耶穌說的是慈愛的天父為他們開啟的未來。我們與祂一起滿懷希望、也因祂而滿懷希望,意思是說,歷史不會因為我們的錯誤、我們的暴力和不義,或將愛釘在十字架上的罪而中止。意思是説,我們以開放的心接受天父的寬恕。

在這些充滿憂慮的時期,一切彷彿在變遷且顯得渺茫,此時談希望,似乎是很不容易的事。然而四旬期正是一段充滿希望的時期,我們雖背離天主,天主卻耐心地繼續關懷我們常糟蹋的受造界(參閱:《願祢受讚頌》,32-33、43-44)。聖保祿勸勉我們把希望放在和好上,說:「與天主和好罷!」(格後5:20)。在和好聖事中領受罪赦,是我們悔改過程的核心,我們也就能轉而把寬恕帶給他人:我們因領受了寬恕,藉著我們對話的能力,並採取關心人的態度,安慰那些感到悲傷痛苦的人,我們就能將寬恕帶給人。天主賜給我們的寬恕,也能透過我們的言語行為,使我們體驗到一個充滿兄弟情誼的復活節。



在四旬期,讓我們越來越注意到「帶來鼓勵、心安、力量、慰藉和激勵,而不是會侮辱別人、使人憂傷或忿怒,也不會輕蔑別人的話」(《眾位弟兄》,223)。有時為了帶給他人希望,只要對人和善就夠了,也就是「願意放下自身的煩惱和憂慮而關心他人,給人一個微笑,說句鼓勵的話,在一片冷漠中願意聆聽。」(同上,224)

透過收斂心神和靜默祈禱,那賜給我們的希望就成為一種啟發和內心的光明,照亮了我們在生活中面對的困難和選擇。因此我們需要祈禱(參閱:瑪6:6),並在暗中與溫柔的天父相遇。

在希望中度過四旬期,意思是說,天主「更新了一切」 (參閱:默21:1-6),所以感覺到自己在一個嶄新時期裡, 成為在耶穌基督內的見證人。這表示,接受基督帶來的希 望——在十字架上付出生命,但天主第三天使祂復活——而 且要「時常準備好答覆任何人【向我們】詢問心中所懷希望 的理由。」(伯前3:15)

## 3. 愛德是信德與望德的最高表達方式——緊隨基督足跡、關懷憐憫眾人

愛德樂於看到他人成長。因此見他人受苦、孤單、生 病、無家可歸、受輕視或貧困時,也會感到痛苦。愛是心 的跳動力,使我們走出自我,並與他人建立分享和共融的連 結。 「群體的愛讓社會能夠邁向愛的文明,這是我們全體都感受到的召叫。愛德是涵蓋普世的,因此能夠建立新世界;愛德不是空泛的情感,而是為眾人發掘有效發展途徑的最好方法。」(《眾位弟兄》,183)



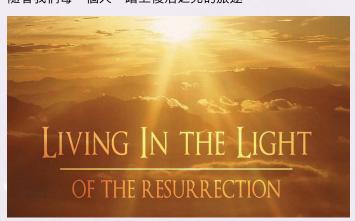
愛是一項恩賜,給我們的生命賦以意義。它使我們把那些窮困的人視為家人、朋友、弟兄姊妹。如果懷著愛心去分享,即使是極小量,也絕不會中斷,反而會成為生命及快樂的泉源。例如匝爾法特的寡婦拿一點油和一些麵,做了餅給先知厄里亞的故事(參閱:列上17:7-16);又如耶穌祝福了餅,把餅擘開讓門徒分給群眾的故事(參閱:谷6:30-44)。我們施予人時也是如此,不論我們給的多或少,只要有喜樂單純的心,愛就會源源不絕。

懷著愛來過四旬期,意思是關懷那些因新冠肺炎而受苦或感覺被遺棄及感到恐懼的人。在這段前途渺茫的日子裡,讓我們記住上主對祂僕人的話:「你不要害怕!因為我救贖了你」(依43:1)。讓我們懷著愛德,去安慰和幫助他們明白,天主愛他們有如自己的兒女。

「只有經過愛德轉化的目光,才能看到他人的尊嚴,因 而能夠承認和重視窮人擁有的極大尊嚴,並尊重他們特有的 生活方式和文化,從而讓他們真正地與社會融合。」(《眾 位弟兄》,187)

親愛的弟兄姊妹,我們生命的每一時刻都是相信、盼望及愛的時刻。四旬期是一段悔改、祈禱、分享的歷程,邀請我們團體或個人再活出那來自生活基督的信德、天主聖神的嘘氣所激發的望德,以及從天父慈悲之心、永不枯竭的泉源所湧流出來的愛德。

願救主之母瑪利亞——永遠忠信地在十字架下、在教會的心中——能以她愛的臨在支持著我們。願復活主的降福伴隨著我們每一個人,踏上復活之光的旅途。



耶穌向門徒宣告祂的受難、死亡和復活,為完成天父對 祂的旨意,祂便藉此顯示給門徒知道,祂使命中最深刻的意 義,並且召叫他們一起承擔這使命,以拯救世人。

在走向復活節的四旬期之旅中,讓我們記得「貶抑自己,聽命至死,且死在十字架上」(斐2:8)的那一位。在這段悔改的時期,讓我們更新我們的信仰,從「活水」中汲取希望,以開放的心接受天主的愛,因祂使我們在基督內成為弟兄姊妹。在復活節前夕,我們會重宣領洗時的誓願,並在天主聖神的工作中體驗到重生,成為新人。四旬期之旅,就像基督徒一生的朝聖之旅一樣,至今仍受到復活之光的照耀,而復活之光啟發了基督門徒的思想、態度和決定。



耶穌所宣講的齋戒、祈禱和施捨(參閱:瑪6:1-18),是 我們悔改的條件和表達方式。神貧與克己(齋戒),關心愛護 受傷的人(施捨),像孩子一般與天父對話(祈禱),使我們在 生活上體現出真誠的信德、活潑的望德和有具體行動的愛 德。

#### 1. 信德召喚我們接受真理,在天主和所有的弟兄 姊妹前為此真理作證

在這四旬期接受並活出基督所啟示的真理, 意思是, 我們首先要接受教會歷代相傳的天主聖言並被祂觸動。這真理

並非由理性構想出來的概念,只保留給少數特選、頭腦聰明或博學多聞的人,而是給我們領受的一個訊息,並且因我們內心的智慧向天主開放而能理解的——天主在我們察覺到祂的偉大之前就已經愛了我們。這真理就是基督本身:基督徹底地擁抱了我們的人性,使自己成為道路——即使嚴苛,卻開放給眾人——為引領眾人到達生命的圓滿。

齋戒是一種克己的經驗,幫助那些心地純潔的人重新發現天主的恩賜,並且明瞭到人身為受造物的事實,以及是按照天主肖像被創造的,並在祂內得到成全。我們藉著齋戒接受了貧窮的經驗,讓自己成為與窮人在一起的窮人,並以接受和分享愛,來「積聚」愛的財富。我們若這樣理解和實行,齋戒便幫助我們愛天主和愛近人,正如聖多瑪斯所教導的,齋戒的行動幫助我們把注意力放在他人身上,視人如己。(參閱:《眾位弟兄》,93)

四旬期是一個相信的時期,是迎接天主來到我們生命中並讓祂「居住在我們當中」(參閱:若14:23)的時期。齋戒包括了斷絕所有讓我們焦慮的一切——例如消費主義或過多的資訊,不論真假——這樣我們才能敞開心胸,迎接來到我們中間的那一位:我們的救主,天主之子,祂一無所有,卻「滿溢恩寵和真理。」(若1:14)





## 永遠懷念我們敬愛的梁晶瑩老師

則濟利亞聖詠團

2021年2月9日對則濟利亞聖詠團是一個沈重的日子,我們最敬愛的麥梁晶瑩女士Grace,在這天要跟我們暫別。我們很多時都稱呼她為梁生或梁主任或梁老師。梁老師在1971年,參與我們聖詠團的成立。她桃李滿門,很多位現在或以前的團員,都曾經是她的學生。梁老師時常都是那麼和靄可親,笑容滿面,對每一位團員都關懷備至。大家在歌唱上的不足,她會帶著笑容很耐心教導,只

説:「大家要留意,嘴要圓些」,又或指:「嗱嗱嗱,大家 聽到嗎,調子還是flat了一點。」其實我們不聰明,又無記 性,時常要她一次又一次提點改進我們的基本功,但她教完 再教,從來都沒有放棄。

梁老師在堂區禮儀工作上的付出、投入和承擔,絕對 是我們每一位的榜樣。她以身作則,組織音樂統籌組,以 她豐富的知識和經驗,連繫我們多個聖詠團,為堂區籌備



各項大禮彌撒,周而復始。工作雖然 繁重,但她從來都沒有説辛苦。梁老 師亦時常服務教友,例如,在婚配聖 事、殯葬禮儀之中擔任司琴。梁老師 曾經全享,她答應過聖母,在自己能 力還可以的時候,就要盡力去做好主 使的工作。梁老師永遠都是以天主的 事情放在首位。

過去幾十年,梁老師在本堂禮儀 音樂方面的工作,實在是舉足輕重, 而則濟利亞聖詠團,在她直接帶領之

下,我們一齊度過了主內幸福開心的歲月。我們與梁老師就宛如親人一樣,她是慈母,亦是導師。我們從她身上,學習到謙遜,也學習到用什麼態度去擔當歌詠團成員,以歌聲去讚美天主。我們真的不捨得她離開,好懷念她的教導、她的笑容、她的一切一切。祈求聖母媽媽照顧梁老師,使她早日在天堂得享永福。現在只是暫別,他日在天上我們會再次組合聖詠團,一同詠唱,讚美天主。

## ~ In Loving Memory ~



You are the reason why I have and will always deeply love music. I could never thank you enough for such a beautiful gift. Your kindness will continue to walk with me each day, for many years to come.

你在我的生命裡留下的足印,我會牢牢的記住在心裡。Thank you for everything that you had done for me, for the church, and for everyone that you care for. Being a mentor and a friend, when I needed more than a teacher. You have brought me amazing friendships and memories that I will hold onto dearly, forever. You will always be missed and always be loved in my heart. Till we meet again, Ms. Leung.

There are no words to express how much we will miss you dearly. The sound of your voice, the feeling we had whenever you were around, the wisdom you bestowed on us. We are blessed to have you in our lives. You will forever be our role model. Your presence, love and

kindness will forever be with us. Thank you for everything you did to console our hearts. May you Rest In Peace in God's arm. You are loved beyond words, and missed beyond measure.

The Mrs. Mak (Grace) that we are all familiar is a woman of great faith and always cares for others. She wore a smile even in her pain and suffering and faced it with courage and dignity. Her life is not a brief candle. She burns her life so brightly in tender loving care for her students and friends in need. We shall always remember her in her gracious love and kindness.



#### Gone But Not Forgotten, Forever In Our Hearts

- ★梁老師,您一生與音樂結緣,歌詠團大部份成員都是您不同年代的學生。在歌詠團裏我們就好像音符,您用無比的愛心和信德把我們平凡的音符譜成美妙的樂曲,頌讚宇宙穹蒼的造物主。離別依依,但是我們欣然相信您已經安息主懷。
- ☆敬愛的梁老師,感謝您的教導,永遠懷念您。
- ★梁主任,春風化雨,音容永在。精神長存,主懷安息。
  永遠懷念您。
- ★實在捨不得您的離去,沒有您的領導及指導,感覺徬徨。希望他日在天家繼續一起詠唱,一起頌讚。請勿掛念,我們會陪伴照顧麥Sir。
- ☆梁老師,成為你的學生,是我一生的福份!永遠懷念……
- ★敬愛的梁老師,我們永遠懷念你。感謝你對聖詠團的貢獻。
- ★謝謝您多年來默默地為我們付出時間和心血,您的無私 精神將永遠在我們心中照亮!永遠懷念、無限感激!
- ★永遠懷念你仁慈的笑容。
- ★敬愛的梁老師,願你在天父的懷抱裡,在那裡獲得永恆的安息。你的慈顏常在我腦海中,永遠懷念您!
- ★老師您是偉大的,像一支蠟燭,照亮別人燃燒自己,謝 謝您,敬愛的老師!
- ★春風化雨、桃李滿門的梁老師,「那掌管明天的恩主, 必會時刻看顧你,祝福你,保護 你;慈顏光照你,仁慈待你;轉面 垂顧你,賜你平安。」
- ★敬愛的梁老師,感謝你帶領我進入 則濟利亞聖詠團,成為我的第二個 家,你的教導及溫婉的笑容永遠在 我心中。願你在天國平安,再沒有 疾病痛苦。永遠懷念你。
- ★梁老師,懷念你的笑容,懷念在聖 堂跟你練歌的日子,你總是耐心的 教導!此刻您已卸下沉重的行囊, 遠離病痛,前往天家去了!雖然再 也見不到你,但回憶卻是永恆難忘 的。梁老師,我會永遠懷念您!

## 則濟利亞聖詠團員

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## 話心聲

- ☆梁老師,你對別人的關愛和仁慈,永遠活在我們的心中!短暫的別離,他日必定能在天鄉再遇!
- ★良師益友倩影留,作育英才樂韻存。梁晶瑩老師,永遠 懷念您!
- ☆梁老師,在我無助時,你給我開導和指引,令我在困擾中得到舒緩。我感謝你的教導,雖然你回到天父身邊,但你永遠在我心中。永遠懷念你!
- ☆梁老師,謝謝妳常常關心我,照顧我,提點我。從妳身上我學會了很多,感恩自己曾是妳的學生,還記得小學時,妳選了我入學校歌詠團及節奏樂團,讓我小時候已對音樂有濃厚的興趣,謝謝妳!願我們能在天家再聚,繼續帶領我們用音樂分享喜樂,永遠懷念妳 梁老師!
- ☆懷念您,親愛的老師!在我們心中珍藏著您的教誨及鼓勵!
- ★抓不著,還是要道別,無論有幾捨不得你,依然只可以 擁抱回憶,讓天使把你帶回天家,妳的熱心、慈愛、關 懷及無私奉獻,在我們的腦海中一片一片的重現著,令 人何等的傷痛!請你在天堂永享天福時,與天使祈求聖 父降福整個聖教會及我們的歌詠團 — 永遠懷念你!
- ☆梁老師,你不只教懂我們怎樣唱歌讚頌天主,亦教懂我們很多做人的道理。
- ☆梁老師,我會想念你,多謝你對我大大小小的教導。多 謝你的支持。我覺得很幸運可以在聖安多尼堂這個大家 庭遇上梁老師,感受過你的親切、善良與溫柔。
- ☆感謝梁老師對聖堂的貢獻。今後我會以模仿梁老師的親切感、耐性及無私的教導,作為表達我對梁老師的懷念。
- ☆梁老師,非常掛念你!感謝你一直以來對我的教導和支持。我會繼續帶着你敬業樂業,愛主愛人,熱心教會的心態,好好對待身邊的人。讓別人能在我身上看到你的慈祥。永遠懷念你。



## 則濟利亞聖該團

質年短片製作特輯

發情自去年農曆新年前爆發後,一波接一波下,教友和新冠狀肺炎已經共處了整整一年,這些日子中所有堂區的喜慶活動面對著前所未有的挑戰,令彌撒聖祭和各傳統的聖誕和復活節聖周的主要活動均面對嚴峻的考驗。為響應堂區將農曆新年的歡樂氣氛,透過大氣電波傳送給教友和各團員,歌詠團迅速在1月中展開籌備工作。





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為免疫情擴散,籌備、練歌、綵排和錄影都要在一晚內完成。當晚大夥兒帶著各自的賀年裝飾,穿上喜慶服飾和拍攝道具,包括年花、燈籠、揮春、對聯、賀年禮品和食物。輝哥還特別為各團員準備了賀年口罩。賀年歌挑選了「恭喜恭喜」、「賀新年」和「讚美之泉」。除了帶出新春氣氛外,還感恩天父在疫情嚴峻下,仍然保守和祝福歌詠團的兄弟姊妹。



過程中拍攝了不少活動花絮,當中包括:自拍、貼揮春、玩遊戲、綵排練歌、醉步和十字舞步,大夥兒在疫情下抑壓著的表演能量一下子就完全釋放出來。整個籌備活動就像開派對一般,大家打著拍子,手牽手伴隨著「讚美之泉」的音樂旋律中搖擺,彷彿要將大家心中友愛、信靠、感恩之情隨歌聲奉獻給上主。

背景對聯用了「挑戰日子快樂渡, 考驗生活幸福過」向教友拜年,鼓勵大 家在逆境中,也可以常懷感恩的心,面 對挑戰和考驗的日子。只要心中有愛,深信天主的照顧, 生活也可以每一天快樂幸福地渡過,正常的生活也必定指 日可待!

神師黃家輝神父也粉墨登場與眾同樂,將輔祭和教 友製作的燈籠加插在活動中,並動用私伙相機為大家拍賀 年硬照,令製作過程更添意義,多謝各歌詠團骨幹成員的 籌備,及各團員投入忘我的演繹和参與,這一天大家一起 過了一個溫馨、開心的晚上。大家都非常感激默默耕耘的 Winnie & Jennifer所組成的萬能製作團隊,包辦了編劇、 場景、道具和攝錄工作的全方位指導,過程中以完美的角



度拍攝,後期製作更剪輯了短短5分鐘的音樂短片帶出新春的溫暖和諧,洋溢祝福和歡樂的氣氛。

黃神父最後更將 大夥兒活潑、攬笑輯錄 在短片後面的祝賀片段 製作成GIF,方便團員 將大家的和諧、愛主愛 人的動力,及讚頌上主 心意傳揚開去。



# Forty days of Lent



prayer • penance • pilgrimage



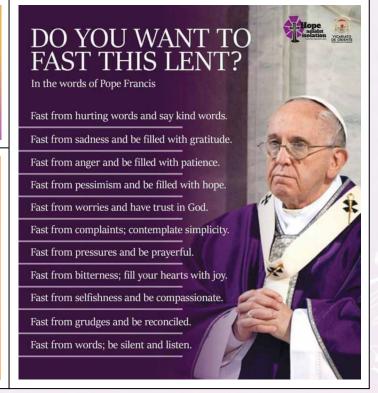
## The Year of St. Joseph Prayer

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Pope Francis

聖安多尼堂 St. Anthony's Church



## PRAYER FOR PARISH RENEWAL

Heavenly Father, by your
Divine Providence you have
redeemed mankind through the
Paschal Mystery of Jesus
Christ, your Son, and have
formed all nations into a
single family, the Church.

We are grateful to you for calling us to be Christians and to be living stones that build up the Church. Together with our parish, we take part in the evangelising mission that Christ has entrusted to the Church.

Father of Mercy and
Compassion, we, your
children, have often neglected,
by word and deed, to bear
witness to your Love and
Goodness. Our parish has
likewise not always set an
example of the Church as a home
that welcomes and cares for
everybody. For these failings of

ours, we humbly ask for your forgiveness.

Heavenly Father, we implore you to help our parishioners to grow in the faith. May we, as members of the Body of Christ, enrich one another with our own gifts and talents, be open-minded in accepting others, and be united by the bond of fraternal Communion. May the Holy Spirit enlighten us, so that we may discern the signs of the

times, and may He inflame our hearts with His Love, so that we may be ready to reach out to different sectors of our local community, bearing witness to the gospel and bringing others to join the ecclesial family, so that they too may share with us a life of everlasting happiness in your Kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Imprimatur: Cardinal John TONG, Apostolic Administrator, Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong 11 January 2021

**Prayer Cards are available at Parish Office Reception** 

## 賀年歌短片製作感想



聖方濟各聖詠團應邀為新年錄製賀年歌短片,知道這個任務時, 我們第一個問題是:受眾是誰?有誰人會有興趣看?應該如何拍?像 流行曲的MV一樣?還是以我們熟悉的形式:大家站立在鏡頭前合唱? 我們初時是全無經驗,全無概念可言的。

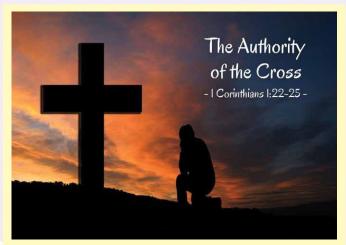
當然全無經驗,全無概念亦可以是個優點,就是我們可以有更大自由去嘗試,去創作。回答第一個問題,受眾是誰?得知短片會放在聖安多尼堂網頁上,受眾應該是所有人,所以,我們揀選了教堂正門、祭壇前、鮑聖廊等等有代表性的地方作為場景,希望藉此介紹一下聖安多尼堂。

另外,我們亦希望短片有一點趣味性、故事性:短片講述一班 未信主的人,他們只懂得追求財神的祝福,不過,接受了基督的十字 架後,生活就變得更有意義、更幸福,堂區的生活就像家一樣充滿 愛......

在天主安排下,在堂主梁熾才神父和副堂主黃家輝神父的指導下,在攝影組的家樂的專業拍攝下,錄影進行得非常順利,我們完成了一項我們以為自己不能勝任的任務。這次拍攝使我們明白,為了分享天主的愛,我們有能力接受一點挑戰,嘗試一些未試過的事。

#### 00000

## Living Word of God - March 2021



For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. (1 Cor 1:22-25)

#### Reflection

Crucifixion was the symbol of total defeat. To proclaim a crucified God to those who did not witness His glory as the almighty creator indeed seemed unbelievable and foolish. Since the time of the exodus, the Jews needed or demanded for signs and miraculous acts to strengthen their shaky faith. In the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, he turned the crucifixion from a sign of weakness and defeat into victory and glory.

The ancient Greeks, eager to pursue wisdom and were well-known for their philosophical and scientific achievements. They believed that through their intellectual achievements, they could understand the mystery of God. Yet God's salvation plan turns this idea upside down.

If the signs to the Jews all pointed to a messianic powerful king, then Christ's passion, death and resurrection and triumph over sin through humble submission to crucifixion was the greatest victory ever. If true wisdom is pointed to salvation for all humans, then this plan was accomplished through a forsaken crucified God.



Paradoxically, what appears to be foolish and weak is seen in faith as the wisdom and power of God. The wisdom of human is to have faith in him and to obey His law. The Decalogue or the Ten Commandments (Exod 20:1-17 and Deut 5:6-21) stipulates what the laws are and concludes the meaning of the laws for all. These commandments are much more than just passive codes of moral standard. It is the revelation of God's intent for us and his vision for our life. This echoes in the Gospel of St. Matthew when lesus adds on a new dimension for his followers based

on faith in Him (Matt 22:36-40). Jesus, in his new law of love, reminds us to focus on the new direction of being charitable and encourages us to actively take initiative to participate in a "What to do" list. Jesus's active charity and mercy for all man lead us to a new dimension of faith.

The Preface and the Readings of Year A are always used on the Third Sunday of Lent when the First Scrutiny is celebrated. This is for the preparation for the Baptism of the catechumens who are to be admitted to the Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil. The Gospel of Year A reading was taken from the Gospel of St. John 4:5-42 regarding the dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. The focus is that Jesus is the true living water and whoever drinks the water will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life (Jn 4:14). The Readings given for year A may also be used in all years, even without the First Scrutiny.<sup>(1)</sup>

The Samaritan woman upon conversion became the first

Gentile evangelist to spread the good news of salvation to her neighbours. This is what the baptized catechumens and we catholics should do to spread the good news of salvation to all humankind.



#### **Prayer**

Almighty God our Father, help us understand that God's commandments are not to enhance the power of the law-giver over us. The Eternal Law of God should not be interpreted just as passive codes of moral standard but rather, it demands us to follow Jesus actively in our own being to become the real children of God. Help us to take initiative to love our neighbours as ourselves and act accordingly with charity and mercy. Please also help us understand the wisdom of God so that our obedience to God's law is never out of fear, but rather out of gratitude, devotion, and love. Amen.

#### Reference:

(1) Hong Kong Catholic Diocesan Liturgy Commission. Sunday Missal Lent 2012, p38-66.

(Source: Parish Formation Group)



### Holy Father's Prayer Intention for March 三月份教宗祈禱意向

#### **Sacrament of reconciliation**

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

#### 為和好聖事

願我們能以更新的精神 體驗和好聖事,品嚐天 主無限的仁慈。



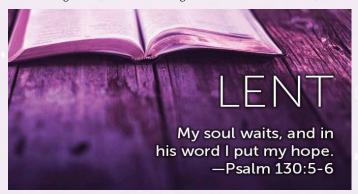
order to open the doors of our hearts to the One who comes to us, poor in all things, yet "full of grace and truth" (In 1:14): the Son of God our Saviour.

#### 2. Hope as "living water" enabling us to continue our journey.

The Samaritan woman at the well, whom Jesus asks for a drink, does not understand what he means when he says that he can offer her "living water" (In 4:10). Naturally, she thinks that he is referring to material water, but Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit whom he will give in abundance through the paschal mystery, bestowing a hope that does not disappoint. Jesus had already spoken of this hope when, in telling of his passion and death, he said that he would "be raised on the third day" (Mt 20:19). Jesus was speaking of the future opened up by the Father's mercy. Hoping with him and because of him means believing that history does not end with our mistakes, our violence and injustice, or the sin that crucifies Love. It means receiving from his open heart the Father's forgiveness.

In these times of trouble, when everything seems fragile and uncertain, it may appear challenging to speak of hope. Yet Lent is precisely the season of hope, when we turn back to God who patiently continues to care for his creation which we have often mistreated (cf. Laudato Si', 32-33; 43-44). Saint Paul urges us to place our hope in reconciliation: "Be reconciled to God" (2 Cor 5:20). By receiving forgiveness in the sacrament that lies at the heart of our process of conversion, we in turn can spread forgiveness to others. Having received forgiveness ourselves, we can offer it through our willingness to enter into attentive dialogue with others and to give comfort to those experiencing sorrow and pain. God's forgiveness, offered also through our words and actions, enables us to experience an Easter of fraternity.

In Lent, may we be increasingly concerned with "speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn" (Fratelli Tutti, 223). In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to be kind, to be "willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference" (ibid., 224).



Through recollection and silent prayer, hope is given to us as inspiration and interior light, illuminating the challenges and choices we face in our mission. Hence the need to pray (cf. Mt 6:6) and, in secret, to encounter the Father of tender love.

To experience Lent in hope entails growing in the realization that, in Jesus Christ, we are witnesses of new times, in which God is "making all things new" (cf. Rev 21:1-6). It means receiving the hope of Christ, who gave his life on the cross and was raised by God on the third day, and always being "prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls [us] to account for the hope that is in [us]" (1 Pet 3:15).

3. Love, following in the footsteps of Christ, in concern and compassion for all, is the highest expression of our faith and hope.

Love rejoices in seeing others grow. Hence it suffers when

others are anguished, lonely, sick, homeless, despised or in need. Love is a leap of the heart; it brings us out of ourselves and creates bonds of sharing and communion.

"'Social love' makes it possible to advance towards a civilization of love, to which all of us can feel called. With its impulse to universality, love is capable of building a new world. No mere sentiment, it is the best means of discovering effective paths of development for everyone" (Fratelli Tutti, 183).

Love is a gift that gives meaning to our lives. It enables us to view those in need as members of our own family, as friends, brothers or sisters. A small amount, if given with love, never ends, but becomes a source of life and happiness. Such was the case with the jar of meal and jug of oil of the widow of Zarephath, who offered a cake of bread to the prophet Elijah (cf. 1 Kings 17:7-16); it was also the case with the loaves blessed, broken and given by Jesus to the disciples to distribute to the crowd (cf. Mk 6:30-44). Such is the case too with our almsgiving, whether small or large, when offered with joy and simplicity.

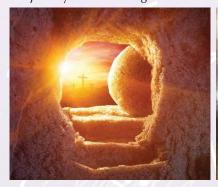


To experience Lent with love means caring for those who suffer or feel abandoned and fearful because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In these days of deep uncertainty about the future, let us keep in mind the Lord's word to his Servant, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you" (Is 43:1). In our charity, may we speak words of reassurance and help others to realize that God loves them as sons and daughters.

"Only a gaze transformed by charity can enable the dignity of others to be recognized and, as a consequence, the poor to be acknowledged and valued in their dignity, respected in their identity and culture, and thus truly integrated into society" (Fratelli Tutti, 187).

Dear brothers and sisters, every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping and loving. The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us as communities and as individuals - to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father.

May Mary, Mother of the Saviour, ever faithful at the foot of the cross and in the heart of the Church, sustain us with her loving presence. May the blessing of the risen Lord accompany all of us on our journey towards the light of Easter.







#### Saint Anthony's Church Parish Newsletter No. 607

## Shepherd Flock's Dialogue March 2021



#### **Chancery Notice: Temporary Suspension of Public Masses**

#### Parish arrangements:

- Opening Hours of the Church:
  - (a) 7:00am 8:00pm daily; (b) 8:00pm 9:00pm Friday Way of the Cross For personal prayers, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, individual spiritual exercises [Special Intention: Containment of Coronavirus as soon as possible]
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
  - (a) 7:30am 9:00am Monday to Saturday [Note: Holy Communion will be given in the beginning and before conclusion of the adoration]
  - (b) 7:00pm 8:00pm on Thursday
  - (c) Sunday: 7:00am 8:00am; 8:30am 9:30am; 10:00am 11:00am (Chinese) 11:30am 12:30pm (English)

[Note: Holy Communion will be given 15 minutes before adoration concludes]

- Sacrament of Reconciliation:
  - (a) 8:00am 8:30am Monday, Wednesday, Friday
  - (b) 8:00am 8:30am; 9:30am 10:00am; 11:00am 11:30am Sunday
  - (c) Personal arrangements with priests

#### Online Mass & Services:

- Sunday Masses participation through the diocesan website www.catholic.org.hk and receive Holy Communion spiritually; OR reflecting on the Sunday liturgical text, reading the Bible or saying the Rosary, etc.
- The faithful can avail themselves of various online services to take part in daily Masses or spiritual exercises, such as the Rosary, the Angelus and daily morning prayer by visiting the diocesan website, the "Click to Pray" network (https://clicktopray.org), the Sunday Examiner website (http://www.examiner.org.hk/), etc.

### Lenten Message of Pope Francis:

## "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem" (Mt 20:18) Lent: a Time for Renewing Faith, Hope and Love



Jesus revealed to his disciples the deepest meaning of his mission when he told them of his passion, death and resurrection, in fulfilment of the Father's will. He then called the disciples to share in this mission for the salvation of the world.

In our Lenten journey towards Easter, let us remember the One who "humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (*Phil 2:8*). During this season of conversion, let us renew our *faith*, draw from the "living water" of *hope*, and receive with open hearts the *love* of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. At the Easter vigil, we will renew our baptismal promises and experience rebirth as new men and women by the working of the Holy Spirit. This Lenten journey, like the entire pilgrimage of the Christian life, is even now illumined by the light of the resurrection, which inspires the thoughts, attitudes and decisions of the followers of Christ.

Fasting, prayer and almsgiving, as preached by Jesus (cf. Mt 6:1-18), enable and express our conversion. The path of poverty and self-denial (fasting), concern and loving care for the poor (almsgiving), and childlike dialogue with the Father (prayer) make it possible for us to live lives of sincere faith, living hope and effective charity.

## 1. Faith calls us to accept the truth and testify to it before God and all our brothers and sisters.

In this Lenten season, accepting and living the truth revealed in Christ means, first of all, opening our hearts to God's word, which the Church passes on from generation to generation. This truth is not an abstract concept reserved for a chosen intelligent few. Instead, it is a message that all of us can receive and understand thanks to the wisdom of a heart open to the grandeur of God, who loves us even before we are aware of it. Christ himself is this truth. By taking on our humanity, even to its very limits, he has made himself the way – demanding, yet open to all – that leads to the fullness of life.

Fasting, experienced as a form of self-denial, helps those who undertake it in simplicity of heart to rediscover God's gift and to recognize that, created in his image and likeness, we find our fulfilment in him. In embracing the experience of poverty, those who fast make themselves poor with the poor and accumulate the treasure of a love both received and shared. In this way, fasting helps us to love God and our neighbour, inasmuch as love, as Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches, is a movement outwards that focuses our attention on others and considers them as one with ourselves (cf. Fratelli Tutti, 93).

Lent is a time for believing, for welcoming God into our lives and allowing him to "make his dwelling" among us (cf. Jn 14:23). Fasting involves being freed from all that weighs us down – like consumerism or an excess of information, whether true or false – in

